



State of Connecticut

SENATE

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March 4, 2014

Sen. Hartley, Rep. Dargan, Sen. Ayala, Rep. Verrengia and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

I am Sen. Art Linares and I am testifying in favor of HB 5387, An Act Concerning Keno.

I fully support this legislation to repeal the authorization of Keno.

As ranking member on the Committee on Children, I am particularly sensitive to how Keno could impact children in our state.

Keno would expose more children to gambling. How?

Because if Keno is not repealed, Keno would be legal in restaurants. Family restaurants across the state.

Children would be exposed to gambling early, and often.

That's not the message we should be sending as policymakers. That's not the message we should be sending to children.

In my district, I enjoy travelling to local schools and talking to kids. We talk about healthy choices. We talk about good decisions.

In authorizing Keno last year, we made a bad decision – a bad decision which would expose our kids to gambling. This year, we have an opportunity to reverse that decision.

I urge support for HB 5387 as a way to protect our children in Connecticut.

Thank you.